Issue No. 32

In The News

Province Fosters a Bright Future for Immigrant Youth

StrongStart BC Centre Opens to Serve West Vancouver

$8.3M Upgrade Makes Trafalgar Elementary Students Safer

$6.5M Upgrade Protects Stelly's Secondary Students

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Links

- Media Room
- StrongStart BC
- LearnNow BC
- School Choices
- Healthy Schools
- ReadNow BC
- School District Visits

Message from Minister Shirley Bond

Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Education

One important and indisputable factor contributing to the fact that B.C. students rank among the best in the world is the dedication of B.C.'s many skilled teachers.

I've visited hundreds of schools throughout the province and I've seen teachers demonstrate this dedication, and talent, plus a passion for reaching whole classrooms and individual students alike. I applaud their commitment and hard work.

I'm very pleased that the work teachers do will be highlighted through the first ever Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence at a celebration this spring. These awards will recognize outstanding B.C. teachers who have made exceptional contributions to benefit their school community and improve student achievement. For more information, please follow this link.

I also hope to continue to meet and personally recognize as many teachers as possible, whether that's through future school visits or at the second annual Teachers' Congress. By listening to one another and working together we'll reach our common goal of improving learning and achievement for every B.C. student.

Demers Brings His Message to B.C.

Stanley Cup winning NHL coach Jacques Demers recently visited Vancouver, Prince George, and Nanaimo to deliver a powerful message of hope. For years, Demers hid the fact that he couldn't read and write. Now, he is determined to help other people with low literacy skills see that they can succeed, and that it's never too late to learn to read. Read more.

Minister Bond discusses literacy and hockey with coach Jacques Demers in Vancouver, September 27, 2007.

HOT TOPIC

An aging population and declining student enrolment is the reality in British Columbia.

There are an estimated 50,000 fewer students this year than in 2000/01 and many school districts own buildings that have unused space.

A new process to ensure that excess space is used for the public good will benefit communities and residents all around the province. All surplus schools and lands that school districts wish to sell must be considered for other public uses before being sold to private interests.

Properties identified as surplus by a school district will be matched against capital requirements from the provincial government, including Crown corporations or other agencies such as colleges or health authorities.

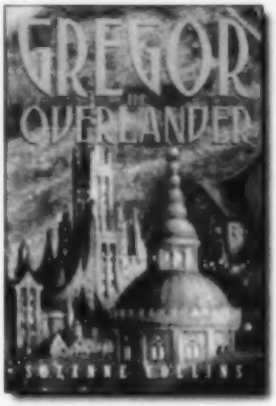
If there is no provincial government interest in the property, the school district must then consult the local government to discuss potential community use of the property.

If there is no local government interest in the property, the board of education may sell the surplus school or land to other interested buyers. School boards are required to use the dollars realized by the sale of excess properties to fund other school capital projects.

All negotiations with the school district will be based on fair market value for the property. Read more.

Reading Corner

When eleven-year-old Gregor tries to rescue his two-year-old sister from a laundry-room air chute, he enters an underground world with oversized bats, cockroaches, rats, and spiders, an underground world on the brink of war. Gregor can help the inhabitants of this world and solve the mystery of his long-lost father if only he can muster the courage. This first book in the Underland Chronicles is suitable for students in grades 4–5.



Gregor the Overlander
Suzanne Collins